(c) and (d) The fresh legislation was introduced in Lok Sabha and passed on 9th May 2003.

(e) In the first instance the airports of Delhi and Mumbai are being taken up for upgradation to world-class standards.

Air India's entry in domestic price war

151. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has joined domestic price war and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Air India's Domestic fares have always been lower than other domestic carriers operating in India. Most of the domestic sectors on Air India are an extension of international flights. Competitive domestic fares help to fill up seats on domestic leg, which otherwise would have operated empty.

Expansion of airports in the North-East

152. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 300 crore has been allocated for construction, expansion or augmentation of airports in the North-East;

(b) if so, the details of the projects contemplated thereunder and cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) An amount of Rs. 250 crore has been earmarked in the Tenth Five Year Plan for construction, expansion and augmentation of airports in North-East.

(b) and (c) Details of projects alongwith cost and status are as under:

GUWAHATI-lnstallation of two passenger boarding bridges,

3 escalators, 2 elevators, expansion of apron and allied works and

construction of canopy on city side at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.89 crore. Work is likely to be taken up in 2003-04. DIBRUGARH-Strengthening/extension of runway, construction of new terminal building, new fire station and isolation bay at an estimated cost of Rs. 41.00 crore. Necessary approvals are being obtained. LILABARI-Installation of Instrument Landing system (ILS) at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.00 crore. Land acquisition is in progress. Work is likely to be taken up during 2003-04. SILCHAR-Strengthening/extension of runway and allied works at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.00 crore. Necessary approvals are being obtained. DIMAPUR-Development of runway strip improvement of drainage system and boundary wall etc. and installation of ILS at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.85 crore. Work is likely to be taken up in 2003-04. ILS has been ordered and will be installed after completion of grading of area and civil works. IMPHAL-Strengthening of runway, construction of isolation bay and widening of apron at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.00 crore. Work is in progress and likely to be completed by October, 2003. SHILLONG-Construction of operational wall and installation of DVOR at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.80 crore. Work is likely to be completed. AGARTALA-Strengthening/extension of runway, construction of isolation bay and allied works and strengthening of existing apron and link taxiway at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.36 crore. Work is in progress and likely to be completed by October, 2003. Besides there is also a provision of Rs. 150 crore for proposed construction of a new airport at Pakyong in Sikkim.

Hindi magazines at airport lounge

†153. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Hindi magazines and newspapers *vis-a-vis* English newspapers and magazines made available in airport lounge and on board;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the acute shortage of the Hindi magazines these are not available to the passengers very often;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.